

only child of Capt. Richard Williams (?–1752), a mariner and commander in the Guinea trade, and his wife Christiana Black of Scotland. Hannah was the stepdaughter of George Gordon of Prince George's County. Hannah received half of her father's estate at his death. **CHILDREN.** SONS: William Henry, eldest son, died without progeny; John Stephen, second son, died without progeny; Stephen, third son, and a minor in 1769, who married Ann, daughter of Michael Pue and wife Mary; Joseph; and Richard William (?–after 1813), who married Maria (1782–?), daughter of *Edward Lloyd* (1744–1796). **DAUGHTERS:** Christian Hannah, eldest daughter, a minor in 1764; Mary, second daughter; Harriet (?–after 1813); and Rachel Sophia (?–after 1813), who married on January 25, 1790, Benjamin Oden. **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1756; Esq., by 1766; Hon., by 1781. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** merchant. A partner in "West & Hobson," which owned stores in Bladensburg, Annapolis (which sold household and kitchen furniture and goods, jewelry and tools), Queen Anne, Pig Point, Piscataway, Upper Marlborough, Elkridge, Elkridge Landing, and Georgetown. In 1772 West took over Mr. French's house in Annapolis, where he sold imports from his ship *Friendship*. He exported tobacco on his ship *Sibella*, and he owned a ropewalk in London Town on the South River. At least once, in 1750, West traveled to the West Indies to select goods personally to bring home to sell. At his plantation the "Woodyard," West manufactured linen, cottons, and woolens, and developed a machine for spinning cotton in which one wheel turned twenty-two spindles and spun as many threads simultaneously. During the Revolutionary War, West manufactured many items which he then sold to the government, such as blankets, socks, rifles, firelocks, fabric for tents, sails, and rigging. He also repaired gun locks and bayonets, and in 1781 alone 400 of these were delivered to him for repair. When the Council purchased 200 pairs of soldiers' stockings from West in 1779, they wrote, "We are convinced the examples of others in demanding exorbitant prices for what they sell will have no influence on you, because they have a tendency to obstruct the object you and we have so much at heart the relief of the poor soldiers." **PUBLIC CAREER.** **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Conventions, Prince George's County, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775; Lower House, Prince George's County, 1777–1778 (Claims 1–3, Manufactories 1–3, Elections 3). **OTHER STATE OF-**

**FICES:** delegate, Continental Congress, 1780 (elected on March 31, 1780, to fill vacancy, but did not serve; resigned on April 5, 1780); Council, 1781 (elected on January 25, 1781, to fill a vacancy). **LOCAL OFFICES:** appointed to a committee by the Assembly to inquire into the practicality of establishing a manufactory of arms in the province, the expense involved, and the best way to carry it out, July 29, 1775; appointed to collect all the gold and silver coin that could be procured in Prince George's County, January 27, 1776; St. Paul's Parish Vestry, Prince George's County, elected June 7, 1779. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** a subscriber to St. John's College; a very active patriot during the Revolutionary War, who was commended by the Council for the zeal he manifested in the cause. **WEALTH DURING LIFE-TIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £695.0.0, including 16 slaves, Anne Arundel County, 1783. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 3,545 acres in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Calvert counties, plus the following lots: 2 in Upper Marlborough, 1 in Queen Anne Town, Prince George's County, and 4 in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County (564 acres and 5 lots by purchase, 2,172 acres through marriage, 516 acres inherited from his father, and 378 acres and 2 lots by patent). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** sold 293 acres in Prince George's County between 1777 and 1779 and half a lot in Annapolis in 1780. That same year he purchased 1 lot in Leonard Town, St. Mary's County, and a tract of unspecified acreage, also in St. Mary's County. In 1783 he paid taxes on 587 acres, plus 1 lot at Elkridge Landing and 1 at Pig Point where he had stores, all in Anne Arundel County, and some of which may have been his father's land. In 1784 he purchased 350 acres in Prince George's County, which he immediately sold. In 1785 he purchased 339 acres in Prince George's County; in 1787 he leased out 2 of his lots in Annapolis. He purchased a warehouse at the public wharf in Annapolis, containing 3,200 square feet, in 1788. Between 1756 and 1776 he held mortgages on 575 acres, plus several tracts of unspecified acreage, as well as slaves, other chattel property, and leases. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** **DIED:** between December 31, 1789, and January 22, 1790. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £48,335.4.19 (including 116 slaves and 483 oz. plate); FB, £8,235.17.1. **LAND:** probably ca. 4,000 acres and 2 lots in Prince George's County, 5 and one-half lots in Anne Arundel County, and 1 lot in St. Mary's County.